

North Carolina National Guard

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAREWELL CEREMONY N.C. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS HELD TODAY IN RALEIGH

RALEIGH – A farewell ceremony for the 382nd Public Affairs Detachment (PAD), North Carolina Army National Guard, was held today, 10 a.m., at the Military Center in Raleigh. The ceremony, at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh, honored the seven Soldiers of the 382nd, headquartered in Raleigh, who will deploy in support of the 101st Airborne Division to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Public Affairs Soldiers serve two roles, one as liaisons between media and the military and as military journalists. They tell the soldier's story and assist commanders in informing the American public through the news media of military operations by facilitating press events, answering questions and embedding journalists.

"We are in a war against Militant Islamic Extremists on the street and in the global information environment, these Soldiers will have a tremendous impact on the war on terror," said Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., The Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard.

Public Affairs Soldiers must create media products to industry standard for worldwide consumers, integrate with all levels of the Army from the individual Infantryman to the highest levels of command and fight the global war on terror in the field and in the information environment bringing home the stories, photos and video of American and Coalition forces success.

The PAD Commander, Capt. Jennifer Martin addressed nearly 100 friends, family and fellow Soldiers and Airmen, "I am thankful to all of my Soldiers, when you see a photo or video from Afghanistan it probably was brought to you by these soldiers."

In 1990, the 382nd was one of the first N.C. Army National Guard units mobilized to support Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the liberation of Kuwait serving in Dahrn and Ryiad, Saudi Arabia in addition to King Kahlid Military City.

On Sept. 4, 2001, the 382nd mobilized in support of Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina. During their post mobilization training at Ft. Dix New Jersey, the terrorist's attacks of September 11th changed what was originally being touted by some as a routine deployment. The 382nd soldiers in Bosnia produced a weekly magazine, video products for Armed Forces Network and conducted press events with local, national and international media. The unit returned in April 2002.

The unit will deploy for approximately one year.

The North Carolina National Guard remains committed to providing ready forces to deploy at a moments notice in support of the global war on terror.